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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/826,765	04/05/2001	Amy Abbott	1525.CHIS.PT	4562

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EXAMINER

NGO, LIEN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3727

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2004

121

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/826,765

Applicant(s)

ABBOTT, AMY

Examiner

LIEN TM NGO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 8-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. "... in a manner to assure orientation of a bottle in a vertical position when secured by said self-adjusting bottleneck-engaging ring member" is not described in the specification..

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 1 and 8, it cannot be determined what is "a vertical position".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker (6,131,780) in view of Palmer et al. (GB. 2233238).

Becker discloses, in figs.1 and 7, a bottle carrier device comprising a hook member 33 having a ring with a pivoted arm; a bottleneck- engaging ring member 12 for attachment about the neck of a bottle; and a joining member 34 having a first end 16 secured to the engaging ring member and a second end 16 secured to the hook member to interconnecting said hook member to said engaging ring member in a manner to assure orientation of a bottle in a vertical position to the engaging ring member when secured by the engaging ring member (see fig. 5), wherein said joining member is a loop of material which encircles a portion of the hook member and which also encircles a portion of the engaging member (see fig. 7).

Becker does not disclose the engaging ring member being self-adjusting elastomeric ring.

Palmer et al. teach, in fig. 3, a bottle engaging member of a bottle carrier device being a self-adjusting elastomeric ring (rubber band, see page 2, lines 15-22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the Becker bottle carrier device with the bottle engaging member

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being an elastomer elastomeric ring, as taught by Palmer, in order to quickly and easily attach and detach the carrier device to and from the bottle, respectively.

7. Claims 1-5, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Becker (6,131,780) in view of Japan reference. (JP 2000-238783).

Becker discloses, in figs.1 and 7, a bottle carrier device comprising a hook member 33 having a ring with a pivoted arm; a bottleneck- engaging ring member 12 for attachment about the neck of a bottle; and a joining member 34 having a first end 16 secured to the engaging ring member and a second end 16 secured to the hook member to interconnecting said hook member to said engaging ring member in a manner to assure orientation of a bottle in a vertical position to the engaging ring member when secured by the engaging ring member (see fig. 5), wherein said joining member is a loop of material which encircles a portion of the hook member and which also encircles a portion of the engaging member (see fig. 7).

Becker does not disclose the engaging ring member being self-adjusting elastomeric ring.

The JP reference teaches a bottle engaging member of a bottle carrier device being a self-adjusting elastomeric ring (rubber band, see English version abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the Becker bottle carrier device with the bottle engaging member being an elastomer elastomeric ring, as taught by the JP reference, in order to quickly and easily attach and detach the carrier device to and from the bottle, respectively.

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Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 and 8-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lien Ngo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0294. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful. The examiner's supervisor, Lee Young, can be reached at (703)308-2572. The Group FAX number is (703) 305-3579.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of the application should be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 308-1148.

Lien Ngo

December 30, 2003




LEE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700